THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The total investment in Central Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.3.99 was Rs. 230140 crores, out of which Rs. 96717 crores was by the Central Government.

(c) The average net profit earned by the Central Public Sector Undertakings during the last five years is about Rs. 10780 crores per annum.

(d) As on 31.3.99, about 19 lakh persons were employed in these PSUs

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Trade between India, China and Japan

1824. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the expansion of trade between India, China and Japan;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the areas identified for the expansion of trade with these countries;

(d) the steps taken to boost Indo-China and Indo-Japan trade in Ninth Plan in coming years; and

(e) the details (hereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) There is scope for expansion of trade between India and both China & Japan. This scope is dependant on the commodities needed by either sides and the ability to offer the same at competitive prices. The last round, that was the 14th Round of Indo-Japan Trade Talks was held in New Delhi in February, 1999 and the Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary. The various areas identified during the 14th Round of Indo-Japan Trade Talks included export of jewellery, fruits, flowers, software development services, Japanese investment, etc. The Japanese side evinced interest in infrastructure development in India, simplification of custom procedures, concern over anti dumping duties, application of safeguards provisions, imposition of special import duty, etc.

The Sixth Session of Indo-China Joint Group on Economic Relation and Trade, Science and Technology has since taken place in Beijing on February

21-22, 2000. The Indian delegation was led BY SHRI MURASOLI MARAN, MINISTER for Commerce and Industry. During the Sixth Session of Indo-China Joint Group, the various areas discussed included importance of e-commerce, exchange of visits between business communities, establishment of business representative offices, organisation of exhibitions, trade fairs, grant of business visas, strengthening cooperation in the field of infrastructure, cooperation in the field of drugs, pharmaceuticals, cooperation in the metallurgy sector, etc.

The Govt. of India works towards the improvement and expansion of trade with China and Japan. The various steps taken include exchange of delegations, holding of JBC meetings, exchange of information, participation in fairs and exhibitions, etc.

Notification of Calcium Carbide Rules, 1987

1825. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Calcium Carbide Rules, 1987 has been published in the Official Gazette by the Ministry of Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Calcium Carbide Rules, 1987 framed under the Petroleum Act, 1934 have been published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 sub-section (i) dated 20.2.1987. These Rules govern the import of Calcium Carbide by sea, land and air, its storage and transportation. For quantities exceeding 500 kgs., the licence to import and store Calcium Carbide is issued by the Department of Explosives which administers these Rules.

Revision in current Industrial Policy

1826. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in the light of achievement made in the industrial sector since the inception of structural reforms especially on the unemployment and regional imbalances, Government propose to make any revision in the current Industrial Policy;